

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 21-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended, claims 2 and 4-20 are canceled and claims 21-34 are added. Claim 1 is amended based upon previous claims 1 and 2. The new claims are supported at least by Figs. 4, 14A, 14E, 26A, 30A, 32 and the specification at page 17, lines 13-18; page 23, lines 8 and 9; page 36, lines 14 and 15; and page 48, lines 14-18. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. The Office Action states that the term "prevent" lacks antecedent basis. By this amendment, the term "prevent" has been deleted. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sugiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,175,613) in view of Yasushi et al. (JP-A-10-295723). Claims 2 and 4-20 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 3.

Claim 1 recites "a urine introduction part forming member bonded to a part of a lower surface of a front end or in a vicinity of the front end of the second leak preventer, the urine introduction part being provided to form a flow passage to flow the body fluid received on a front side of the absorber toward a rear side of the absorber." The applied references fail to disclose these features for at least the following reasons.

In rejecting canceled claim 2, the Office Action alleges that Sugiyama's film-like partition 44 discloses a urine introduction part forming member. However, Sugiyama's film-like partition 44 is a separation structure to restrict movement of excretion products between the front absorber 21 and the rear absorber 43. *See* Sugiyama at col. 6, lines 23-31. Thus Sugiyama's partition 44 performs in a manner that is completely opposite to the claimed urine

introduction part forming member. As such, Sugiyama does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the above-quoted features of claim 1.

Yasushi fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sugiyama.

Claim 3 is patentable by reason of its dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional feature it recites. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 21-34 are also patentable. For example claim 22 recites "a urine/feces stopping member spaced apart from the second leak preventer." Sugiyama's film-like partition 44 is not spaced apart from the feces separator sheet 45. *See* Sugiyama's Figs. 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, and 35.

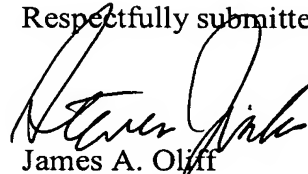
Claim 23 recites "the urine introduction part forming member has liquid permeability." Sugiyama's film-like partition 44 cannot have liquid permeability because of the above-described function of separating the different excretion products.

Furthermore, the newly added claims are also patentable at least by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

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